

THE THOROTON SOCIETY

Nottinghamshire's History and Archaeology Society



The Quarterly Newsletter of the Thoroton Society

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The Saxon Pots (see page 2)

Photo: Mark Laurie / Courtesy of University of Nottingham and Lincolnshire County Council

The Thoroton Society of Nottinghamshire

The County's Principal History and Archaeology Society

Visit the Thoroton Society website@www.thorotonsociety.org.uk

FROM CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE EDITOR.

- Thank you very much for all your comments about the Ault Hucknall Church Altar rail following the request in the Autumn Newsletter. Research and correspondence has revealed, supported by Pevsner, that the altar rails, font, pulpit and benches all date from a restoration of 1885 to 1888.
- On the cover of the Summer 2019 Newsletter there was the portrait of Dr George Oakley Aldrich of Cockglode, Edwinstowe. On the 31st October 'The Times' had an article titled "Scars issue unmasks painting's origins" about the portrait which had been identified as being by Pompeo Batoni. Batoni was known for painting English Gentlemen abroad on the Grand Tour. Batoni had suffered a traumatic birth which adversely affected his speech and mobility. It appears that this might have drawn the sitter and the artist together. (You can refer for further details back to Adrian Henstock's piece in the Spring 2019 Newsletter). If anyone has further information about George Aldrich's history and the scars around his mouth I would be interested on receiving this so I can pass on the information in a future Newsletter.
- A Memorial for the engineer who pioneered a clean water system has been unveiled in Arnold. Born in 1807, Thomas Hawksley created the pressurised water system which saved thousands of lives. The sculpture in Arnot Hill Park was designed and built by local artist Richard Janes and incorporates elements of Thomas Hawksley's work and designs using techniques and materials in use when Hawksley was alive. The memorial has also elements of design from children from Arnbrook Primary School who worked with Richard Janes on the memorial. This memorial was funded by Severn Trent Water.
- This year sees the celebration of the 200th Anniversary of the Mansfield & Pixton Railway which was opened in 1819 and is the oldest continually running commercial line in England. To celebrate this there is a project which aims to research and promote this line and anniversary. For further details email trevorandpam@gmail.com or visit their website www.MansfieldandPixton200@btck.co.uk

Paul Baker

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLES

SIX POTS AND DONOR DISCOVERED

Nottinghamshire's Historic Environment Record (HER) entry [M8927] suggests that our Anglo-Saxon forebears established a cremation cemetery in what is now the Netherfield area of Carlton, close to the River Trent and just downstream from Nottingham. There are six known pots which survive and these now reside in the University of Nottingham's Museum of Archaeology. The HER helpfully advises that a number of noted Anglo-Saxonists of the mid-20th century published information or commented on the pots and the existence of the cemetery. However, despite these references, what is not so clear today is where the pots were found, when the discovery occurred or in what context the finds were made.

Lincoln City & County Museum: Although now in Nottingham, the pots were originally donated to Lincoln City and County Museum in 1912 along with a number of other items. Very brief details may be viewed on-line at the wittily-named *Lincs to the Past* website by searching on "Netherfield":

Reference	Description
LCNCC: 1912.311 to LCNCC: 1912.316	Ceramic: Early British pottery (six pieces one inside another), Trent Valley, Netherfield, UK
LCNCC: 1912.317	Axe: Three polished stone celts, Trent Valley, Netherfield, UK
LCNCC: 1912.318 to LCNCC: 1912.319	Ceramic: Early British pottery (six pieces one inside another), Trent Valley, Netherfield, UK

There is something of an anomaly here. There appear to be eight ceramic artefacts for the six pots. Perhaps there has been some misclassification? Once broken pieces now repaired? Or are there a couple of other

pots somewhere? The pots are surprisingly small and rather plain. On the face of it, it is hard to see them as cremation urns. They are certainly not of the larger, decorated types one might readily associate with some Anglo-Saxon cremation cemeteries. As Mark Laurie's photo of the pots on display in Nottingham shows, there is a distinctly domestic look to them. But that need not exclude the possibility that they came from one or more cremation burials. A separate piece of work has been undertaken to document the pots themselves and if it is of interest to members of the Thoroton Society, details may be included in a future Newsletter.

The Anglo-Saxonists: At some stage the prevailing view as to the identity of the pots shifted from "Early British" to Anglo-Saxon. The first dated reference in the HER is the 23rd of October 1932 and is a personal comment from the noted Southwell-born Anglo-Saxon scholar, Sir Frank Stenton. Unfortunately, the HER does not record what Sir Frank's comments were. An undated personal comment is also noted from C.W. Phillips re "OS Rec 6in". Charles William Phillips was involved in the 1939 excavation of the ship burial at Sutton Hoo and became head of the Archaeology Branch of the Ordnance Survey. He is also credited as a contributor to the Ordnance Survey's 1939 publication, the *Map of Britain in the Dark Ages (South Sheet)*. This map shows a symbol for a "single burial" just to the east of Nottingham and opposite the symbol for a "cemetery" immediately to the south, across the River Trent, which is presumably the cemetery at Holme Pierrepont. Could this "single burial" represent the Netherfield site? There are two other published references which the researcher may follow, an entry in Audrey Meaney's 1964 *A Gazetteer of Early Anglo-Saxon Burial Sites* and a drawing of each pot in J.N.L. Myres *A Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Pottery of the Pagan Period* (1977). Yet none of these explain the when, where and why of the discovery of the pots.

The Museum Guide: The Collection has a helpful on-line resources section, which includes a scanned copy of a 1913 Museum Guide by the curator, Arthur Smith. At the end of the guide, page 13 gives what appears to be an incomplete alphabetical list of donors ending in the letter "N", the rest presumably originally on a now missing page 14. If the pots had been given in 1912, might the donor have been included in that list?

The Donor: After another trawl through its records, The Collection advised that it had some additional information. The pots were received on the 20th December 1912. The identity of the donor was confirmed as one Dr. Alexander Fraser and sure enough his name appeared in the surviving portion of the 1913 list of donors. A quick look at *Kelly's Directory of Nottinghamshire 1904* confirmed that a surgeon of the same name resided at an address on Burton Road in Carlton. This certainly seemed like the right person in the right place at the right time.

The Early Years: Alexander Fraser was born in Dingwall in early September 1858. His medical school records record the date as 9th of September 1858, whereas on-line records suggest the 4th of the month. His father was a tailor. His schooling prior to medical school was Dingwall Free School, 2 years; Tain Free School, 1 year; Invergordon High School, 6 years; High School Edinburgh, 1 year and a half. At some stage his family moved to nearby Strathpeffer, a holiday boom-town of the Victorian romance with all things Scottish. It was also the site of a number of medieval clan battles and the famous carved Pictish monument, the Eagle Stone. If ever there was a place which might inspire an interest in the past, Fraser's childhood home was certainly it.

Medical School: According to records at Edinburgh's Medical School, Fraser began studying Medicine at Edinburgh University in the academic year 1875-76 and he graduated with an M.B. Edin, C.M. (Bachelor of Medicine (Edinburgh), Master of Surgery) in 1884. This was a general medical degree, qualifying the holder to practise as a doctor. At the start of his studies in Edinburgh, Fraser's records show that he was living at 10 Buccleuch Place and at the time of his final exams he was at 13 East Preston Street. He would have been a contemporary of Arthur Conan Doyle, who studied Medicine at Edinburgh between 1876 and 1881.

Twickenham Park: Following graduation, Fraser appears to have been in practice at Twickenham Park in south west London. It seems likely that it was here he met his future wife Emily, her father being a civil engineer living in Twickenham.

Carlton, Nottinghamshire: The 1891 census returns show Fraser living at Burton Road, Carlton, where he is described as a single "medical man and general practitioner" with a household consisting of a housemaid/domestic servant and a coachman/domestic servant. In 1893 he married Emily Marianne Codrington at Brentford and the 1901 census has Fraser still living on Burton Road, described as physician and surgeon. His household consists of his wife Emily, three daughters, a domestic cook, a domestic nurse,

and a domestic housemaid. Despite his collection of artefacts, Fraser does not appear in the early membership lists of the Thoroton Society and nor was he a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London.

Caistor, Lincolnshire: In 1910, Fraser bought a medical practice in Caistor, Lincolnshire from the estate of a recently deceased GP, Dr. Francis R.S. Gaman. He was appointed Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator for Caistor (No 1) District. The 1911 census shows him living at Caistor House, in the centre of Caistor, as a medical man and MD. His household consists of two daughters, one son, a governess, a domestic housemaid, a domestic cook and a domestic nurse. (His wife and one daughter were visiting her parents in Twickenham when the census was taken.) Also living there was his unmarried brother-in-law, William J Codrington, aged 40 and described as medical man and MD. In the same year he was elected a member of the Lincolnshire Automobile Club and was a member of the United Ancient Order of Druids. In 1929 he became a Justice of the Peace and in 1932 was appointed Medical Officer for the then newly-formed Lindsey and Lincoln Joint Smallpox Hospital Board. The 1939 National Register shows him living at Caistor House, Caistor, and describes him as physician and surgeon. The household now consisted of his wife and an unmarried daughter.

The Donation: In December 1912, Fraser donated a collection of Early British artefacts to the Lincoln City and County Museum. The 1913 Museum Guide refers to them as:

"Case 1. Contains a fine group of Early British pottery. The greater number of these have been deposited by Mr. H. Preston, F.G.S.; others are the gifts of various donors. All of them have been found in Lincolnshire. Dr. Alexander Fraser's collection of Early British pottery and implements have been recently deposited in this case."

The Grantham Journal of the 28th of December 1912 has more to say:

"PREHISTORIC POTTERY - TRENT VALLEY FINDS FOR LINCOLN MUSEUM. Dr. Alexander Fraser, of Caistor, has deposited his collection of prehistoric pottery and stone implements in the County Museum at Lincoln. They were all found in the Trent valley, and are fraught with great interest. The pottery is of very early type, being undecorated and of simple form. There are six vessels. The largest is about five inches in height, and has a small cup inside. When found, this urn was covered by a sort of mosaic of pebbles, which made an effective cover of unusual form. The other vessels vary in size from 3in. to 4.5in. in height. There are three fine polished celts of a greenish-coloured compact stone. The largest is 12in. long, another is 10in. and the smallest is over 8in. There are also three implements of a granite-like stone. There is already on exhibition through the Museum a fine series of British pottery, dating back some three thousand years, and the addition of Dr. Fraser's specimens makes it all the more complete and interesting."

So, in 1912 the pots were not recognised as being Anglo-Saxon, perhaps because of the lack of ornamentation and their association with the earlier stone implements.

Obituary: Alexander Fraser died in Caistor House on the 27th July 1942 and was buried at St. Luke's, Holton Le Moor, Lincolnshire where his headstone reads "Physician, husband of Emily Marianne Fraser". According to Fraser's obituary in the Lincolnshire Echo (29th July 1942), he was the Medical Officer of Health, Caistor Rural District; Medical Officer to North East Lindsey Joint Hospital Board and Medical Officer to Lindsey and Lincoln Joint Smallpox Hospital Board - all three appointments he held up to his death. It was also noted that he was "a keen archaeologist, and a student of the geology of the Lincolnshire Wolds" and that "in both subjects pursued an independent line of inquiry." This independence may explain why he was not a member of either the Thoroton Society or the Society of Antiquaries. His obituary notes that he was survived by his wife, three daughters and his son, Dr. A.C. Fraser, who had a practice in Lincoln prior to war service with the RAF. A later reference in the same paper (15th September 1942) regarding the auction of his possessions after his death included the sale of John Wesley's rocking chair! Emily died in 1947 in Cuckfield, Sussex.

Transfer to Nottingham: In 1957, the pots and implements were transferred to the University of Nottingham on loan where they may be viewed today. The University has no surviving accession records but it seems likely that the City & County Museum's focus on items from within the County of Lincolnshire made the transfer to an establishment more local to the find spot a logical move.

Further Work: So, at least the donation of these pots and other artefacts is now a little better understood. The find spot and circumstances in which the pots were discovered are still unclear and work is on-going to resolve this. It is hoped that further information may be shared along with details of the pots themselves in future issues of the Thoroton Newsletter.

Nick Molyneux

If anyone has any information regarding the Netherfield Anglo-Saxon cemetery, please e-mail details to: n.molyneux@live.co.uk.

With thanks to: *Eleanor Baumber*, Collections Development Manager, Lincolnshire Heritage Service & Archives; *Alan Dennis*, The Caistor Heritage Trust; *Terry Hanstock*, Genealogical Correspondent, Nottingham Drinker; *Mark Laurie*, University of Nottingham Museum of Archaeology; *Kevin Leahy*, Portable Antiquities Scheme; *Andy Nicholson*, Nottingham History website (<http://www.nottshistory.org.uk/>); *Claire Pickersgill*, University of Nottingham Museum of Archaeology; *Heather Rowland*, Society of Antiquaries of London. *Danielle Spittle*, Edinburgh University Library; *Professor Moira Whyte*, College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine, Edinburgh; *Professor Howard Williams*, University of Chester.

Sources: 1891, 1911 Census; 1939 National Register; Daily Mail [Hull] (8th March 1929); Grantham Journal (15th April 1911 & 28th December 1912); Kelly's Directory of Nottinghamshire 1904; Links to the Past website (<https://www.lincstothePast.com/>); Lincoln City & County Museum Publication No. 15, Museum Guide, May 1912 by Arthur Smith; Lincolnshire Echo (16th March 1911, 29th July 1942 & 15th September 1942); Louth & North Lincolnshire Advertiser (30th April 1910); More Portraits of Caistor Lincolnshire" 2007 by Rev. David Saunders; Nottingham Evening Post (18th November 1932); Map of Britain in the Dark Ages (South Sheet), Ordnance Survey, Southampton 1939; The Lincoln, Rutland, and Stamford Mercury (15th July 1910).

WULFSTAN II OF WORCESTER AND HIS ADVENTURES IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

During the Norman Conquest almost all the Saxon bishops were dismissed and replaced by Normans. The one exception was Wulfstan II of Worcester. Wulfstan II was born in Warwickshire in 1008, the nephew of Wulfstan I (circa 966 to 1023) who was firstly Bishop of London, then York and in 1020, Bishop of Worcester. Wulfstan II was also made Bishop of Worcester circa 1062. Wulfstan II was born at Itchington, Warwickshire into a married priest family. In the 11th century, before the Norman reforms, married priests were quite common and Wulfstan's mother may have been a sister of Wulfstan I, later bishop of Worcester. They were quite wealthy owning much land in the village hence the thorough education given to their son.

Wulfstan was a supporter of William I before the Conquest (although some accounts deny this) and it is this support which contributed to his survival as the sole Saxon bishop after 1075. Wulfstan died in 1095. Wulfstan was much admired by the Norman bishops probably because he was a renowned orator and could speak in Old English as well as Norman French. In consequence he was widely employed in dedicating new Norman churches, mainly in the south and west. He was assisted in his duties by his chancellor, a man by the name of Colman. Colman was a scribe and wrote down everything in Old English that he saw and took part in. Colman's text survived into the 12th century and was acquired by William of Malmesbury circa 1117. He was intrigued by what Wulfstan had accomplished and set about interviewing all who were still alive who had met him. As a result he wrote a text in Latin intending to seek beatification of Wulfstan from the Pope. This text was entitled *Vita Wulfstani* (Life of Wulfstan) which is now considered to be a hagiograph (a biography that treats its subject with undue reverence). As a result Wulfstan was canonised on the 14th May 1203 by Pope Innocent II and a shrine was installed in Worcester cathedral to which pilgrims came. The shrine was destroyed at the time of the reformation.

The *Vita Wulfstani* remained almost ignored for centuries until it was examined and partially translated into English by Reginald Darlington in 1928 under the direction of Sir Frank Stenton. Darlington was awarded his doctorate for this work. Even then the translation was incomplete when transcribed into the book *St Wulfstan and his Works*. In this Darlington described Wulfstan's work in dedicating churches and noted a number of "miracles" which the bishop performed on his travels which William of Malmesbury had used in the argument for beatification. Why Darlington did not complete the translation is unknown^A but the only reference to Nottinghamshire was a line which referred to Wulfstan attending "Saewin's church at Ratcliffe". This event is undated. The Domesday Book confirms that Ratcliffe had a church in 1086. The entry stated that "there is a church and a priest" but it also confirmed that the lord was Saewin, a King's Thegn. The interpretation is that Saewin was a retainer of the king; although that status by 1086 had been much devalued, it indicates that Ratcliffe manor was probably owned by William I. In light of Ratcliffe's history between 1087 and 1135 this assumption is not unreasonable. Saewin's name (in Danish Mercian) is also sometimes confused as he is sometimes called Sewi or Sewy (old English) and Sauvinus (Thoroton Latin).

To return to the *Vita Wulfstani*, Darlington's work remained the sole translation which was extant until 1990 when Emma Mason decided to review the work and produce a complete edition called *St Wulfstan of*

Worcester 1008 to 1095. The work showed the context of Wulfstan's visit to Nottinghamshire. The book lists eighteen "miracles" which Wulfstan performed, most of them in London and the south. Some authors claim that one was the curing of an illness of the daughter of King Harold but this is not borne out by the translation and the date would be placed before 1066 which is questionable. The interesting ones for this publication are the nineteenth and twentieth miracles, both of which must have been carried out between 1080 and 1084 (for reasons stated below). As mentioned previously, both of these had been omitted by Darlington and so it has only been in the last few decades that the Nottingham "miracles" have received attention.

Wulfstan was visiting Nottingham en route to York at the behest of William I and Archbishop Thomas of York. Emma Mason believes the bishop followed the Saltway from Droitwich and then the Fosse Way (now the A46) to arrive at Nottingham. At Nottingham he performed another "miracle" (the nineteenth) whilst staying in the house of the High Sheriff which some identify as Hugh FitzBaldric. Generally Hugh does not feature before 1069 but appears to have been in office until 1080. However, the Domesday Book identifies Hugh de Port as High Sheriff in 1086, having been appointed in 1080. The latter is the most likely and it had to be well before 1086 as the church was complete in that year. The story goes that whilst dining he had an argument with the wife of the High Sheriff who challenged him to perform a miracle to demonstrate his piety, whereupon he enabled an unusual run of salmon at the local Trent fish weir. Before leaving for York he visited Ratcliffe.

I give below the details as stated by Emma Mason:

Wulfstan's gift of prophesy was also considered to have been demonstrated in another, but altogether more sombre, episode which occurred in Nottinghamshire. A rich man named Sewy¹ built a church on his estate in Ratcliffe on Soar (then Redecrive). As an Englishman², and a King's Thegn he was eager to have the dedication performed by Wulfstan³. The church built of stone with a stone altar which may have replaced an earlier Saxon church⁴. He asked the Archbishop of York to permit Wulfstan to act, and this was agreed. Archbishop Thomas (of York) was normally only too willing for Wulfstan to perform routine tasks – and in any case bishops apparently functioned outside their own diocese on occasion before such activity was curbed by the expansion of canon law in the 12th century⁵. News went round that Wulfstan was to perform the dedication and people flocked to the church^{6, 7}. The arrival of this eminent and venerated Englishman and his celebration of the elaborate ritual would make a welcome change from the drudgery of the daily round. As usual, Wulfstan took the opportunity offered by the big congregation to preach a long sermon – probably a novelty in itself to most of those present – and he expounded his favourite theme of peace and goodwill. This encouraged a certain poor man to come forward. He earnestly asked the bishop to make peace between him and a rich man who was standing nearby⁸. What Colman did say was that the rich man was a priest who had betrayed his calling for love of increased wealth. Wulfstan called this man forward and asked repeatedly – three times in all – to make peace with the poor plaintiff, but the rich priest scornfully ignored all the bishop's entreaties. With the priest still standing before him, Wulfstan then prophesied:

You are determined not to have peace. I tell you truly that the time is coming and is almost here when you will want to be merciful to this man, and to others, but you will not be able to do so. You yourself will ask for mercy and it will be denied you.

Wulfstan would know from long experience that unresolved disputes about land were only too likely to lead to violence, particularly when the aggressor had stirred up enemies on all sides. The rich priest was not in the least moved by the bishop's words, but hurried off to his own house. Up to this point he had always been favoured by fortune, but now it turned against him with a sting in its tail. The denouement appears to have followed immediately, to demonstrate the fulfilment of Wulfstan's prophesy. Most likely several of the priest's victims had listened to the bishop's words and felt justified in wreaking vengeance at once. The priest's enemies stormed into his house and his companions fled as best they could. The priest himself was killed and Wulfstan's prophesy was fulfilled. It was felt in the bishop's circle that the outcome was a warning to others to recognise what is good for them, and in particular, to take care not to transgress the commands of holy men.

Notes:

Main Text

- A Reginald Darlington died in 1977 and in his obituary there is a copy of a statement made by Darlington circa 1951. The statement reads "As a young scholar I received much kindness and encouragement from him (Stenton) and it was he who urged me to start work again on the cartulary (*Vita Wulfstani*) after my first transcript had been destroyed (in a German air-raid of 1942) " This may be why the work was not completed.

Account

- 1 Sewy (or Saewin or Sauvinus) was a King's Thegn who had acquired the former lands of Osgod including Ratcliffe, Kingston, Gotham and Barton probably after the Mercian suppression of 1068/9. He is referred to in the Domesday records of 1086. He disappears from records on or about 1089 when the estates were acquired by Hugh Lupus, Earl of Chester.
- 2 But probably of Danish extraction
- 3 This begs the question as to why Sewy could make such an arrangement. Although Wulfstan dedicated many named churches in his own diocese the number dedicated outside with names are very few, Emma Mason only identifying two, Ratcliffe and St Botolph's at Bradenham. It may be that Sewy was known to Wulfstan.
- 4 In a directive from Archbishop Lanfranc issued in 1076 all altars should be made of stone. As a result wooden Saxon altars were removed. In the main, these stone altars or Mensa slabs were carried on stone supports. The slab projected over the base at the front and sides and its edges were square and usually undercut. Five crosses were incised on the top surface – one in each corner and one in the centre, representing the five wounds of Christ. Ratcliffe's Mensa slab carries a cross in the top left corner but those on the other three corners were destroyed in the 16th century during the attempt to break the stone. Although the stone conforms to the Norman specification the current stone is believed to be 14th century.
- 5 Emma Mason believes this section was added by William of Malmesbury who was renowned for adding legalistic asides.
- 6 Darlington says that one of the important acts of dedication was to dedicate the altar stone which may well be the Mensa stone still extant in the church (see note 5 above). Whatever building existed at this time it could not have been larger than the existing chancel. The church has been altered in 1160, 1195, 1220 and 1303.
- 7 Wulfstan only dedicated newly built churches. In addition, Normans only built in stone. Therefore there is a good chance that Ratcliffe's chancel footprint dates from this period. There are several pointers in this direction. The chancel is much longer than the nave indicating that the chancel once was the only building; the walls are some 4ft thick indicating early Norman origins although the lancet windows are Early English from late 12 century and the south wall (the only original remaining) is built in random rubble. There is also an early Cistercian priest door in the chancel south wall but this cannot be earlier than 1130.
- 8 Both names were omitted from the *Vita Wulfstani* as written by Colman either because he did not know them or, as suggested, out of discretion. It has been suggested the priest was from Breedon or Melbourne the former being a well establish Saxon church. This is not unreasonable as the number of Saxon churches existing in the 1080s was very limited.

Ray State

GEOFFREY BOND THOROTON RESEARCH AWARD CONTRIBUTION

BOREHOLES AT BURTON LODGE, BURTON JOYCE, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Absolute dating evidence from the upstanding earthwork enclosure at Burton Lodge, Burton Joyce is currently lacking. A tentative Iron Age date has been suggested based on recovered stratified pottery from excavations conducted on the site in the 1950s. Absolute dating techniques, as well as environmental sampling methodologies, were not available at this time. Such procedures, it is hoped, may be able to provide age determinations as well as a depositional history for the ditch sequence at Burton Lodge.

The aim of the investigation was to recover material from the ditch fills suitable for radiocarbon dating. The objective to meet this aim was to conduct a hand auger survey in order to assess the nature and extent of the deposits and recover sediment suitable for appropriate sampling. Initial attempts at a hand auger survey were unsuccessful following the inability to penetrate past the stiff mudstone-derived upper stiff clay fill of the ditch. It was therefore decided to hire a drilling rig in the form of a tracked windowless sampler which could drill boreholes and recover the complete intact sediment sequence for the ditch.

In total, four boreholes were sunk at the base of the ditch. Initially two boreholes were sunk to assess the width of the ditch. These were recorded on site and reinstated having hit the sandstone (skerry) lined sides of the ditch at depths of 1.60-1.70m below ground level which impeded further progress. This did provide an indication as to how significantly the ditch narrowed towards the base. The further two boreholes were sunk centrally with the aim being to recover the maximum extent of the ditch fills. These two complete sets of cores were retained, having been drilled to a maximum depth of 3.00m below ground level, before encountering the base of the ditch represented by the mudstone bedrock.



Plate: Borehole drilling under way in the centre of the Burton Lodge ditch.

At present, only one of the borehole cores has been extruded, recorded and examined. The examined borehole core does not appear to match the descriptions of the profiled encountered in the 1950s excavations. No organic deposits or layers were observed with the fill comprising a seemingly homogenous stiff red brown mudstone derived clay. No further diagnostic evidence was retrieved from this core. The second core remains sealed at present.

Further work is required on the recovered intact sequences from Burton Lodge. It is hoped that additional external funding may be sought out and that micro morphological analysis could be undertaken to elucidate the depositional sequence. The material from both complete cores will be examined extensively for material which may be suitable for radiocarbon dating, for which further additional external funding will be sought. In addition, portions of the sealed core may be submitted for optically stimulated luminescence (OSL) dating should no appropriate organic material be present for radiocarbon dating.

A report detailing the complete findings from both of the intact sediment cores is forthcoming and it is hoped, that following further work, that the full results could be published should the findings be successful.

Tom Keyworth, Geoffrey Bond

ANNUAL LUNCHEON OF THE SOCIETY

This year we had a superb lunch in a superb venue – Kelham House (aka The Red House). The staff were most attentive, efficient and friendly. Seventy members and guests were booked for the lunch and despite concerns about nearby flooding, all attending were extremely happy with the event.

After lunch, as is our custom, we raised our glasses for the toast to the Queen, proposed by John Beckett, followed by the toast to the Society proposed by Robert James - a short, succinct and very appropriate tribute to the Society and its namesake, Dr Robert Thoroton and his inspiring antiquarian friend, Sir William Dugdale of Warwickshire, which is Rob's home county. President Adrian Henstock responded to the toast with an interesting and amusing piece on a link with Portugal and a strange meeting.

Following our meal Dr Richard Gaunt gave an illustrated talk on the life and career of William Ewart Gladstone, at one time Member of Parliament for Newark, which was most interesting and raised a number of comments and questions.

A most enjoyable lunchtime spent in Kelham House.

Look out for details of the next lunch to be found on your 2020 programme, in the newsletter and on a flyer sent out in a future mailing – it will be held on **November 7th 2020** – put the date in your diary now!

The Editor has had a number of comments from members about how enjoyable the lunch was and how they thoroughly enjoyed Dr Gaunt's Lecture on Gladstone. Rather apt considering the political turmoil of the past year! A copy of 'The Secret Out' print can be found on Page 18 of this Newsletter.



With thanks to Dr Richard Gaunt for this from his talk on William Gladstone at the Annual Lunch.

THE THOROTON LUNCH AT KELHAM HOUSE. 2ND NOVEMBER 2019



Kelham House; guests ready for lunch; Rob James proposing the toast to the Society; the Chairman with his bell; President Adrian Henstock giving his address; after-lunch speaker and Vice-Chairman Richard Gaunt about to give his lecture.



EXCURSION TO FOTHERINGAY, LYVEDEN CHURCH AND KIRBY HALL, 13TH SEPTEMBER 2019



From the top: views of the church with its octagonal spire, the memorial to Richard 2nd Duke of York and the restored mediaeval organ; the mound of Fotheringay; lunch at the Falcon; Pete Smith leading the party at Kirby Hall, with views of part of the courtyard, spectacular carving and the rear.

EXCURSION REPORT: FOTHERINGHAY, LYVEDEN CHURCH AND KIRBY HALL.

THURSDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER

LEADERS: ALAN LANGTON AND PETE SMITH

After our coach turned off the A1, the octagonal tower of Fotheringhay Church became clearly visible to us. We were warmly greeted by Mr Bill James who had prepared coffee and tea and cake for us, before he told us about the extraordinary history of this magnificent building – now only half the length that it once had been. A considerable cleaning and refurbishment programme has created a most excellent church, helped by the large number of clear glass windows which on this sunny day helped the vision. The details about the royal connection with Fotheringhay were usefully explained by Bill, especially with reference to King Richard III and Mary Queen of Scots. After an opportunity to walk around the church, and the possibility of walking to the Mound where the famous execution took place, we enjoyed lunch at the Falcon Inn. Our journey to Kirby Hall through delightful Northamptonshire countryside gave us a very different initial view of Kirby when compared with Fotheringhay. The Thoroton Society's own historical buildings expert, Peter Smith, then led us systematically through the various stages of the growth of this once significant country house. Through evidence of years of neglect, the work of English Heritage and Pete were able to reveal the efforts of a sixteenth and seventeenth century family endeavouring to make their mark on the fashionable society of their day. Not only the size of the structure, but also what was left of the spectacular decoration of the rooms, and the extent of the gardens, makes it clear that here was once a significant example of one family 'keeping up with the rest of high society'. Peter's expert knowledge gave members a vivid image of a once glorious 'palace'. We are most grateful Peter for his part in such a memorable day.

Alan Langton

(See photographs, by John and Janet Wilson, on page 11 and on the back page of this Newsletter)

BOOKCASE

BEYOND THE PULICATION: INCREASING INTEREST IN THE WELBECK ATLAS

Although it is now over two-and-a-half years since the Record Series published the digital edition of the Welbeck Atlas, there is increasing interest in this volume (of which a few copies are still available!) both from within and beyond Nottinghamshire. In June 2018 I gave a talk on the background to the Atlas at the Lowdham Book Festival. This focussed on the life of William Cavendish, the first Earl of Newcastle upon Tyne, who commissioned the Atlas in 1629 to create a record of his extensive estates of around 100,000 acres in seven English counties. About 50 people attended the talk and a fair number of copies of the book were sold afterwards and on the Thoroton Society bookstall at the festival.

One of the readers of my edition of the Atlas was Dr Sarah Bendall, the leading authority on early estate surveying and mapping. Dr Bendall is based at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, and organises termly seminars there on the history of cartography. She kindly invited me to lead one of these in February 2019, where I discussed the technical aspects of the maps in the Atlas and the construction of the volume itself. Around 30 people attended, including the former Head of Map Collections at the British Library and the Editor of *Imago Mundi*, the main international journal for the history of cartography.

In late 2018 *Imago Mundi* had already requested a review copy of the Atlas and it is hoped that this will be published soon. In March of 2019 a glowing account of the Atlas appeared in the *IMCoS Journal* (International Map Collectors Society). This and my lecture in Cambridge aroused the interest of the Editor of *IMCoS Journal* who then commissioned a long article on the Atlas. Here I concentrated on the map-making side of things and especially the life and work of William Senior, who was commissioned by William Cavendish to create the Welbeck surveys between 1629 and 1640, and had been the estate surveyor and cartographer to the Devonshire branch of the Cavendish family from 1609 to 1628.

This article was published at the end of September 2019 as the leading paper in the journal (with an image of the Welbeck estate map on the cover) and has been lavishly illustrated with ten other colour plates.

During 2018 the Society agreed to requests to reproduce pages from the Atlas for the Kirk Langley neighbourhood plan and a firm of conservation architects in Buxton. We have also approved making the digital Atlas available as a learning resource on the intranet of Michigan State University. But perhaps most important and gratifying amongst all of this interest is to see the number of citations of the Atlas starting to appear in historical and archaeological articles in the *Transactions*. In this way the edition of the Atlas is serving its core purpose of making this important historical resource easily available to current and future researchers. From my experience after the publication of the 1609 Sherwood Forest survey and map in the late 1990s, these citations will really proliferate about 5 years after publication of the Atlas.

Steph Mastoris

***THE OLD ROADS OF DERBYSHIRE* by STEPHEN BAILEY. ISBN 978-1-78901-843-1 MATADOR 2019**

This volume is the second on the theme of Derbyshire roads and trackways, the first entitled *The Derbyshire Portway*. Both books stray into Nottinghamshire in following the routes, making them even more interesting to our members. Indeed the book will be interesting not only to historians but also to walkers and countryside lovers. Stephen has undertaken 20 years of research on his subject and this volume sets out the history of road network development from the earliest prehistoric tracks to the advent of tourism in Victorian times. We read of the many creators and users of the trackways – those on foot such as jagers and their packhorse trains, pilgrims and drovers, pedlars and tramps, and those who rode in wagons and coaches - they must have been fairly rough rides. For serious walkers the book includes a walking guide to the over sixty miles of the Derbyshire Portway – a route ancient before the Romans came and still able to be followed today from the early part which runs from Sneinton to Stapleford!

Barbara Cast

OXTON, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE, A HISTORY (PRIVATELY PUBLISHED, 2019) ROBERT COOPER

(Copies available from the author: email at bobxcooper@gmail.com for further details.)

Robert Cooper has prepared this study of Oxton according to the conventions laid down by the Victoria County History in its newly established 'Shorts' series – in effect individual parish studies published in paperback format. He even notes that any deviations from the VCH format are 'mine alone'. The book begins with introductory matter including location and physical boundaries, geology, population, communications (roads and railways) and landscape and settlement. There is a brief description of the church and a plan of the village which also has a picture of the now demolished Oxton Hall. The village has been a conservation area since 1989. Next comes landownership and the descent of the manor since Domesday Book – classic VCH territory. This is followed by chapters on the economic history of Oxton, the social history of the village, local government, and religious life (both Church of England and nonconformist).

The book ends with a most un-VCH-like discussion of the contrast between Oxton today and one hundred years ago, in which Cooper looks at how the community, and the buildings, have changed since the First World War. The book is well researched and written, and I would like to see more 'Shorts' of Nottinghamshire villages and towns, but quite where the book stands is open to question. Cooper thanks Philip Riden (VCH county editor for Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire) for supervising the writing of the book, but it does not appear to have been edited in, or to have the approval of, VCH

Central Office, and it has no ISBN number, so it will not be picked up by the usual search engines. I was hoping to greet this as heralding the revival of the VCH in Nottinghamshire after a 110 year absence. Shame. But it is still an interesting book, full of information and it gives us an idea of how an agricultural village ten miles from the centre of Nottingham has changed radically in the course of the twentieth century.

John Beckett

SOCIETY NOTES

FROM THE HONORARY SECRETARY

250TH ANNIVERSARY OF REGINALD SPOFFORTH – COMPOSER AND ORGANIST OF SOUTHWELL

Reginald Spofforth was born in Southwell in 1769, being baptised on 12th September. He was a musician; an organist, conductor and music teacher, but best remembered as a composer, notably for his glees. These include "Hail Smiling Morn", said to be the most popular glee of its time, and "Hark! The Lark at Heaven's Gate Sings". Southwell Choral Society sang "Hail" at a recent concert.

During his career Spofforth composed about 75 glees, three books of nursery rhyme settings and also hymns and many songs, including some for various stage performances at Covent Garden in the 1790s. He had moved to London at about that time but still remembered Southwell – a plaque in the Minster records his gift, by will, to support the poor of the town.

He died on 8th September 1827 – a memorial to him is on the walls of St Mary Abbots, Kensington.

GEOFFREY BOND THOROTON RESEARCH AWARDS

A record number of applications for research awards were received this year, all most interesting projects. Three of the applicants were successful in being awarded amounts towards their research – these were:

- Scott Lomax, who is undertaking a PhD in Archaeology at the University of Nottingham. He requested support for the scientific investigation of horn cores recovered from clay and timber-lined pits or vats excavated at Goose Gate, Nottingham, in 1976. Three of these pits contained more than 100 horn cores, important evidence of industrial activity during the late medieval period – examples of these are to be investigated, including radio-carbon dating. Scott is the City Archaeologist and a member of Thoroton Council.
- Victoria Owen, an archaeologist with Trent and Peak Archaeology, is undertaking bio-archaeological research at St Nicholas Church graveyard and documentary research on residents of this ancient part of Nottingham. Vicky was awarded a sum towards the documentary research.
- Val Wood, who is leading research on nursing in Nottinghamshire; the sum awarded will support the project. Val, a former nurse and nurse educator, lectures extensively to academic institutions and local organisations, including to the Society most recently in January 2018 to mark the centenary of Representation of the People Act, and she will be known to many members from her involvement in the Nottingham Women's History Group.

Barbara Cast

ANNIVERSARIES

200 YEARS AGO

False alarm in Nottingham in December 1819, but troops billeted at Bromley House.

Following the so-called Peterloo Massacre of protesting citizens in Manchester on August 16th 1819, the members of the Borough of Nottingham passed a motion on September 24th deploring the violent dispersion of such persons. They did not agree with their sentiments and 'we decidedly disapprove of the People assembling with Bands of Music, Flags and other Emblems'. But they declared that 'the right of Englishmen publicly to assemble...was confirmed by the Bill of Rights, one of the best Securities of public and personal Liberty'. They intended to present an Address to the Prince Regent, imploring him to exhort

the Authorities to act with firmness but fairness and 'in particular that a Military force be not employed until the Civil Power shall have proved inadequate'.

Nevertheless, in December 1819, when distress, unease and possible rioting unsettled the Borough, troops were rapidly sent to occupy Bromley House which was empty at the time. On the 10th, four companies of the 52nd Regiment of Foot marched into town and on the 13th two other companies joined them in the House. Next day, several wagonloads of ammunition and stores were delivered to the premises. The military presence was again reinforced by the arrival in the town of the Holme and Watnall Yeomanry. (It is difficult to see where six companies of soldiers could have been accommodated in the House, although some must have slept in the garden).

Fortunately, nothing alarming happened to justify these arrangements and within three weeks the soldiers had withdrawn, leaving 'somewhat damaged premises'. In addition to the rent to be paid for Bromley House, the Corporation had to pay for at least '15ft 6ins. of rail and turned pegs taken down and not replaced, three mahogany bannisters broke and gone from the best staircase and sundry holes in the plastering'. Apparently, the officers behaved better when using furniture etc. which had been provided specially for them at a cost of a little over £108. A short while after the occupation the contents were auctioned for £92. 5s. 4d. The crisis was over.

With thanks to Terry Fry for this piece

250 years ago

9th January 1769. The County Hall, being very dilapidated and insecure...the magistrates came to the resolution of rebuilding and enlarging it. A petition for an Act of Parliament to give them the necessary powers was consequently agreed upon and signed by the magistrates and freeholders present.

Nottingham Date Book

260 years ago

4th April 1759. Samuel Ward was hung for breaking into the house of Mr Liptrot, tallow-chandler and grocer, at the top of Byard Lane. This young man's untimely end excited much commiseration: his connections were respectable, and many entertained the idea that he had not a felonious design in entering the house. It was generally understood that Mrs Liptrot died of a broken heart in consequence.

13th September 1759. Defeat of the French at Quebec, and the death of General Wolfe.

17th November 1759. The Duke of Newcastle, Recorder of Nottingham, presented an Address to the King, at St James's, from the Mayor and Burgesses in "Common Council" assembled, in which they congratulate His Majesty on "The signal and glorious successes which have attended your Majesty's arms both by sea and land in this auspicious year, particularly upon the defeat of the French army in Canada, and the taking of the City of Quebec". His Majesty, it is said, "received the address very graciously".

Nottingham Date Book

Banking in Nottingham

'The bank of Messrs Smith and Co, South Parade, is the oldest in the town. It is believed to have originated in the year 1700'.

1759 saw the establishment of the banking firm, Messrs John and Ichabod Wright and Company, Carlton Street.

Messrs Moore and Robinson's Banking Company was established in 1802, under the style or firm of Messrs Moore, Maltby, Evans and Middlemore. The partnership was dissolved in 1815, in consequence of the deaths of three of the partners. The bank then became known as that of Messrs Moore, Maltby and Robinson (Mr Moore being the son of the former banker). In 1836, the firm disposed of a certain portion of their interest in the business, and the bank became the joint concern of a numerous and highly respectable proprietary, under the name of Messrs Moore and Robinson's Banking Company.

The Bank of Messrs Fellows, Mellor and Hart was established January 1st 1808 at the premises in Bridlesmith Gate.

Messrs Rawson, Inkersole, Rawson and Co instituted a bank in the same year (1808) at premises in The Poultry. This bank closed its operations in 1817.

The Northern and Central Bank of England, Manchester, opened a branch in Carlton Street in 1834. The directors, having had to encounter severe losses, wound the concern up in 1934.

The Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Banking Company commenced business in Pelham Street in April 1834.

The Nottingham Joint Stock Bank commenced in 1865, at the corner of Bridlesmith Gate and Low Pavement, and removed to new premises in Victoria Street in 1874.

Nottingham Date Book

[Does anyone know what happened to these banks? Possibly some may have 'survived' to the present day by incorporation into other, larger, banks]

John Wilson
Hon. Treasurer and Membership Secretary

THOROTON RESEARCH GROUP MEETING 28TH SEPTEMBER 2019

Only six members were able to attend, and there was some discussion as to the possibility of a 'virtual' group, on Facebook, or a blog attached to the Society's website. No decision was reached.

Current research reported included:

- 1 A study of the membership of the Society during the first 25 years of its existence. This might form the basis of a publication for the 125th Anniversary of the Society in 2022;
- 2 An 18th century Nottingham clock and watchmaker, Joseph Kirk, whose daughter and grandson continues the business. There is a longcase clock by Joseph Kirk in Sudbury Hall, Derbyshire;
- 3 The history of Wollaton Hall and Park 1680 to 1925;
- 4 The navigability of the River Leen;
- 5 Lord Lovell and the Battle of East Stoke;
- 6 Enclosures around Nottingham;
- 7 The boat houses by the River Trent near the Forest Football Ground;
- 8 A lifeboat, the *Robin Hood*, which was purchased by subscriptions from Nottingham people and brought to Nottingham in 1867 for a demonstration on the Trent.

Anyone interested in the Research Group, which meets twice a year, please contact John Wilson at treasurer@thorotonsociety.org.uk. You will be very welcome to join us.

NEW MEMBERS TO THE SOCIETY SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER.

Mrs Jane Eden
Mr Darrell Kemp
Dr Eveline Knight-Jones
Mr David Knight-Jones
Mrs Olivia Jose
Dr Clare Bowler
Mr Christopher Cooper
Dr Ursilla Spence
Mrs Clelia Power

IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM THE TREASURER

In November/December, members will have received their notices to renew their membership of the Thoroton Society for 2020.

Payment may be made by cheque or by bank transfer. The bank details have been included with the renewal notices. **If you make a bank transfer, please use your membership number as the reference on the transfer.**

Many members have standing orders. If you do have a standing order set up at your bank, please ignore the renewal notice.

Please make prompt payment. Thank you in anticipation.

John Wilson

THE CASTLE PROJECT





FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

As we go into 2020 and with the Castle project taking place I would like to publish some Castle restoration news in each Edition in 2020. The above photographs are a taster to advertise my intentions on including regular updates. Please let me know if any member would like to contribute to this news.

What is being planned?

- There will be a book review of a new book 'Reds, Rebels and Radicals' which includes a chapter called 'Bows against the Barons'. The children's book 'Bows against the Barons' was written by Geoffrey Treece in 1934 and was read by me in the 1950's. Links here with Nottingham Castle may be mythical but Treece writing about that radical, mythical figure called Robin Hood, as a children's book, makes one consider the links with the Castle and with the new Robin Hood and the Rebels Gallery being included in the Castle's restoration.
- All contributions to the Newsletter are welcome but please note but that there is a restriction to the length of articles that can be included and therefore longer research items will be passed on to the Editors of Transactions for their consideration for publication.

I wish all Members a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Paul Baker

THE THOROTON SOCIETY

OFFICERS

President: Adrian Henstock BA DAA FRHistS

Chair: Professor John Beckett BA PhD FRHistS FSA

Secretary: Barbara Cast BAHons Little Dower House, Station Road, Bleasby, Nottingham, NG14 7FX.

Email: barbaracast@btinternet.com

Treasurer: John Wilson BPharm MPhil FRSPH email treasurer@thorotonsociety.org.uk.

Membership Secretary: John Wilson Pharm MPhil FRSPH email: membership@thorotonsociety.org.uk

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Individual Ordinary membership £27.00

Associate member (at the same address) £6.00

Student/Under 21 £6.00

Individual Record Section membership £16.00

Combined Ordinary and Record Section £38.00

Institutional Ordinary membership £27.00

Institutional Record Section £22.00 (non-UK £26)

RESEARCH GROUP

Meets twice a year. Contact for details: John Wilson email: treasurer@thorotonsociety.org.uk.

RESPONSE GROUP

The Society seeks to respond to matters of historical and conservation concern which arise in the County.

If members become aware of such matters, please contact the Group Co-ordinator, Barbara Cast - contact details above.

VICTORIA COUNTY HISTORY

A group of researchers continuing the VCH of Nottinghamshire. For information and to join the group contact the County Editor, Philip Riden at philip.riden@nottingham.ac.uk.

PUBLICATIONS

The Society publishes an annual *Transactions* volume, which is distributed to all members.

The Record Section volumes are published from time to time and are distributed to members paying the extra subscription for this Section. They are also available for purchase by other members and the general public.

Quarterly Newsletters are circulated to every member.

LECTURES

Lectures, unless stated otherwise in the programme booklet, are held at the Nottingham Mechanics, 3, North Sherwood Street, Nottingham, NG1 4EZ, commencing at 2.30 p.m. with the Bookstall open from 2 p.m.

DEADLINES for Newsletter items are 1 February, 1 May, 1 August and 1 November of each year.

Copy should be sent to the **EDITOR**, Paul Baker MA FRGS. email: editor@thorotonsociety.org.uk

Items can be handwritten or typed in Word format, either suffix .doc or .docx. Pictures, diagrams and maps are all most welcome to illustrate an item. Images can be submitted on CD, DVD, as an email attachment or sent for scanning. Preferred size 300dpi JPEG. Images will be adjusted to suit the publication.

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All views expressed in the Newsletter are those of the author and not necessarily shared by the Thoroton Society, its officers or Council members.

THE THOROTON SOCIETY IS A REGISTERED CHARITY No. 237755.

Kirby Hall

